

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:**

Eagle Beach Accessible Public Use Cabin and Shelters

State Funding Requested: \$ 58,000
One-Time Need**House District: Juneau Areawide (3-4)****Brief Project Description:**

This project would provide funding for construction of a public use cabin accessible to disabled individuals and two additional picnic shelters at Eagle Beach State Recreation area.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$58,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Eagle Beach state recreation area is one of the most heavily used parks and day use areas on the Juneau road system. The current drive-in camping area has accessible latrines, paved walkways, ample parking, and all other support facilities available for individuals with limited mobility. The addition of an accessible public use cabin would allow these individuals a camping experience not otherwise available in Juneau. The cabin would be rented by DNR as part of the statewide public use cabin system, for \$25/night. This project would also fund two additional covered picnic shelters at the park. These shelters are heavily used by day use visitors as well as campers, and provide a picnic table sheltered from the rain. Materials will be purchased from a local sawmill, and construction will be completed by community volunteers and park staff. This project has been through a public review and has the approval of the State Parks Advisory Board.

Project Timeline:

Funding will be expended during FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Eagle Beach State Recreation Site (Juneau)

Accessible Public Use Cabin and Shelters (58k)

Handicapped Accessible Cabin on the Road System (50k)

The State Parks public use cabins in the Juneau area are jewels of the State Park system, they are extremely popular and in continuous use. However none are easily accessible along the road system, nor are they accessible to people with mobility limitations, except for one boat-accessible site. Territorial Sportsmen have supported public use cabin funding and have helped construct them in the more remote areas for hunting and fishing. Four new cabins have been completed in the last several years, all in areas requiring boat access or a hike of several miles.

A properly designed accessible public use cabin on the Juneau road system would allow users with limited mobility to enjoy a camping experience which is otherwise unavailable to them. It would provide a unique and rewarding opportunity for many who do not have the ability to physically access a remote cabin to enjoy the beauty and remoteness of their region and the wilderness cabin experience.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Ten Year strategic Plan identifies as a goal expanding the public use cabin system.

The Juneau area has the opportunity to accomplish this goal with an accessible public use cabin at Eagle Beach State Recreation area. The area has great potential as a year round facility with accommodations for higher use volume and more valuable service to the community. Staff are able to provide year-round maintenance.

The Eagle Beach State Recreation Area is now the premier handicapped accessible facility in the state, with established road access, underground electricity, paved walkways to handicap accessible latrines, a remote setting, access to paved walkways and vistas, and ample parking. An accessible public use cabin would probably see continuous use. It is an ideal place for year-round activity.

Cost of construction of a facility with the use of volunteers and park staff could be accomplished for \$50,000.

Covered Shelters (8k)

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area has one covered picnic shelter on the site. It is busy nearly every weekend and sunny day of the year. In the fall of 2006 as part of a Highway Improvement project on the Glacier Highway, the day use area was paved and upgraded for higher use volumes.

The construction of two new covered picnic shelters on the site would allow many more park users to enjoy the beauty of this popular destination, rain or shine. With materials purchased from a local saw mill, and with construction using volunteer and state park staff, two shelters could be built for the cost of materials alone - \$8,000.